



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 16, 2002**

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather favors fieldwork, although emerging, dryland winter wheat fields in the ***Northwest*** will soon need rain for autumn establishment. In addition, long-term water supplies (reservoirs) remain below normal in most areas due to lingering effects of the ***Northwestern*** drought of 2000-01 and the ***Southwestern*** drought of 2001-02.
- ***On the Plains***, light rain and snow showers are boosting topsoil moisture for recently planted winter wheat across the ***northern half of the region***, particularly in ***Nebraska*** and ***South Dakota***. Meanwhile on the ***southern Plains***, mild, dry weather is promoting wheat development.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cool weather persists in the ***upper Midwest***, slowing evaporation rates, helping to maintain soggy field conditions, and further slowing corn and soybean harvesting. In contrast, a band of unfavorable dryness persists across recently planted or soon-to-be-planted winter wheat fields from ***central and southern Illinois to southeastern Michigan and northwestern Ohio***.
- ***In the South***, dry weather is returning to the ***southern Atlantic States***, following yesterday's drought-easing rainfall. Farther west, dry weather is permitting a limited return to summer crop harvesting in the ***Delta***, although some fields remain saturated from September and early-October downpours.

**Outlook:** In the ***Northeast***, heavy rain and gusty winds will accompany a winter-like storm, while dry weather will return to the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States***. Farther west, a weak cold front will bring a mixture of rain and snow to the ***Midwest***, while warm weather will return to the ***central and northern high Plains***. Meanwhile, warm, dry weather will prevail in the ***Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast States***, although showers are expected across the ***Southwest*** and ***southern Plains*** by week's end. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 21-25 calls for below-normal temperatures nearly nationwide. Above-normal precipitation is forecast for the ***Rockies, southern Plains, Southeast***, and much of the ***South***, while drier-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***Pacific Northwest, upper Midwest, Great Lakes region, and southern Florida***.

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